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Judiciary Committee
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H.B. 5531 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS OR
SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDER

Friends, Advocates, Legislators, Governor Malloy, and President Obama it is very nice of you to host us today.

There is a wide difference between the people who are sitting in the room as consumers and the legislators who sit here in the room with us. But it is possible to bridge the gap and be equal. It is possible for you to help us and for us to help you. What we need is open mindedness, hope, and belief in each other. A willingness to take risks, realize what went wrong, and try again.

We need to stop focusing on small issues that are driven more by insurance companies, like co-pays, that don't really have anything to do with helping people. I spent four years testifying about co-pays, and yet the decision that was finally made still doesn't reflect what are in the best interests of us, the people actually living with these issues. It's time to start asking us what is working and not working.

Everyone in this room knows I am miserable. So, what are we going to do about it, and what are we going to do with all the other people with psychiatric disabilities?

I feel that all of us must get connected to what is most important to us so we can be kind and even loving and fulfilled.

For me, I've spent the last four years writing, and I have published five books. The fifth book is knocking at the door and will be published in May or June. These books are available to be purchased online through Amazon and Kindle, but you can also order a paperback copy through Barnes & Noble. Anyone who is interested in writing a book and having it published, please feel free to contact me because I can help you get through the process.

However, all these dreams and actions are nothing if we are not supported and loved for who we are and guided out of our own darkness so that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Please do not forsake us again.

If anyone of us is starving and alone, I suggest that this individual and all individuals should have a personal helper who visits them as often as needed. We need to find people who can meet people where they are at. To hear their goals, and offer guidance. This person will need to have a really warm heart and be very insightful and compassionate. Willing to do a little risk taking.

On Wednesday, I watched President Obama highly praise Merrick Garland as his nominee as the next Superior Court Judge. Judge Garland said that people can't tell people what they should do, or shouldn't do. If they don't believe what you believe, then you can't force them to adopt your beliefs. Sometimes those choices can be very difficult.

Please vote against bill 5531. Thank you very much for listening.